

ONOTA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 7, 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Terry Pihlainen, Supervisor Sarah Redmond, Trustee
Stephanie Bromley, Clerk Brian Bresette, Trustee
Susan Kerst, Treasurer

Members Absent: None.

II. AGENDA

A motion was made to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion: Sarah Redmond
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

III. MINUTES

A motion was made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion: Susan Kerst
Support: Sarah Redmond
Motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

A. Financial Report

Clerk Bromley advised the board that the following amendments need to be made to the fiscal year-end budget before approval.

From Contingency Fund #850-965	\$1100.00	To: 266-805 Attorney Expenses	\$1080.00
		751-850 Comm. Promotion	20.00

A motion was made to make the above listed amendments to the fiscal year-end budget.

Motion: Stephanie Bromley
Support: Sarah Redmond
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Terry Pihlainen
Sarah Redmond
Brian Bresette
Susan Kerst
Stephanie Bromley

Treasurer Kerst presented the bills for payment.

A motion was made to pay the bills for as presented for payment for the fiscal year-end in the amounts of \$5,052.22 for the general fund checks #2607 to #2618 & #2630 to #2632; \$1,545.77 for the fire fund, check #1430 to #1438; and \$4,932.72 for the solid waste fund check #1088; and the April 2014 bills in the amount of \$4,744.80 for the general fund, checks #2619 to #2633.

Motion: Brian Bresette
Support: Sarah Redmond
Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the balance sheet and profit and loss statements for the general fund, fire fund, solid waste fund and tax fund as presented by Clerk Bromley for fiscal year-end and April 2014.

Motion: Susan Kerst
Support: Stephanie Bromley
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:
Ayes: Susan Kerst
Sarah Redmond
Stephanie Bromley
Brian Bresette
Terry Pihlainen

B. Fire Department Report

Chief Kimar read the Fire Department Report. A copy is on file. The report included a request for approval to purchase fire retardant powder (estimated at \$270), and a request for approval to purchase firefighter turnouts for James Short (estimated at \$1,850).

A motion was made to approve the purchase of the above for up to a total cost of \$2,120.

Motion: Stephanie Bromley
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

C. Planning Commission Report

Trustee Bresette discussed the property splits and amendments that will need to be made to the Rock River issue. The Planning Commission will hold an organizational meeting on Tuesday April 8th, 2014.

D. Assessor Report

No report was received for this month.

E. Zoning Administrator Report

ZA Tietjen reported on inquiries about land splits, and said that he had advised those residents to contact the Supervisor, and that they may need to petition the Zoning Board of Appeals. There are two meetings that need to be held and he would like to combine them in one meeting.

F. Supervisor/Road Commission Report

The supervisor reported on his discussions with Bob Lindbeck (engineer/manager of Alger County Road Commission) in regards to the township road projects. Supervisor Pihlainen and Trustee Brian Bresette will accompany Mr. Lindbeck on a ride through the township.

No other reports were received.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence was received.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was opened at: 7:18 PM

Comment was received from: Nancy Bennett about township bills; Chris Goss asking about the possibility of a cell tower.

Public Comment was closed at: 7:20 PM

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Cost Recovery Ordinance

The board had sufficient time to review the ordinance, and following a discussion the board agreed on its adoption. A motion was made to adopt the Cost Recovery Ordinance as presented.

Motion: Sarah Redmond
Support: Susan Kerst
Motion carried.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Terry Pihlainen
Sarah Redmond
Brian Bresette
Susan Kerst
Stephanie Bromley

B. Planning Commission Vacancy

This topic was covered under Trustee Bresette's report on the Planning Commission. The board cannot take any further action on appointments without receiving a letter of interest. The issue was tabled until the May 2014 Regular Board Meeting.

C. Fire Department

A lengthy discussion was held on the fire department. Chief Kimar first read a letter (*filed under correspondence*) discussing what she perceived as on-going interference by the supervisor, and requested the board allow her to communicate and work with a different member. Supervisor Pihlainen did not respond to the letter, and instead brought up a letter he requested from the insurance company in regards to fire department operations. He then questioned the number of firefighters on the department, their level of participation, and suggested that the department be merged with AuTrain, Chocolay, or disbanded, as townships do not have a legal responsibility to provide fire protection. From his perspective, he said the fire department had problems since its beginning, and that he did not see any way for those issues to be satisfactorily resolved. Trustee Redmond stated that she had contacted Chocolay and they had no interest in a contract or merger for fire protection for Onota. Chief Kimar stated that according to her discussions with the AuTrain department, they were not interested in contracting or merging with Onota.

Chuck Bouth introduced himself to the board and the citizens as a community member with extensive experience in emergency services who frequently assisted Alger County Emergency Management. He offered to hold some discussions with the Supervisor and Fire Chief as a neutral party with the sole purpose of resolving this on-going conflict. Under board concerns, Trustee Bresette was chosen to serve as the board's liaison to these discussions.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mediation Discussion

This topic was merged with the previous topic for the purpose of congruity.

B. New Streetlights

A discussion was held regarding the possibility of new streetlights at the intersections of M28/Shelter Bay Road and M28/Rock River Rd. The board asked Supervisor Pihlainen to request estimates from Alger Delta as to the actual costs and the procedures to obtain permits for this process. It was agreed that the issue would be tabled until the next meeting.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was opened at: 8:19 PM

Public comment was received from: Nancy Bennett

Public comment was closed at: 8:32 PM

X. BOARD CONCERNS

Susan Kerst:

Stated that she would like to review section 2.4 of board policy at next month's meeting.

Brian Bresette:

Asked which trustee should attend the discussions between the Supervisor and Chief if needed. The board agreed that Trustee Bresette would be responsible for this due to his familiarity with the department and its past issues.

Stephanie Bromley:

Mentioned that there had been an issue in the past month that resulted in a call to 911, and that she hoped such matters as that and the fire department could be moved on from, and that everyone could focus on their actual duties, particularly elected officials.

No other concerns were expressed.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Motion: Susan Kerst
Support: Brian Bresette
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Bromley,
Onota Township Clerk
Proposed: 04-07-14
Approved: 05-05-14